

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 18.94 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the Brown County Land Conservation Subcommittee was held on Monday, June 24, 2019 at the Duck Creek Center – Public Works Department, 2198 Glendale Avenue, Green Bay, WI.

Present: Chair Norb Dantine, Supervisor Deslauriers, Supervisor Tran, Supervisor Erickson, Supervisor Kaster, Citizen Member Stan Kaczmarek
Also Present: County Conservationist Mike Mushinski, Natural Resource Educator Whitney Prestby, Supervisor Borchardt

I. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dantine at 6:00 p.m.

II. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Stan Kaczmarek to approve. Vote Taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. Approve/Modify Minutes of June 3, 2019.

Motion made by Supervisor Deslauriers, seconded by Supervisor Erickson to approve. Vote Taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. Discussion re: Future meetings, including location, date and time.

Supervisor Erickson informed he likes the meetings at Duck Creek because the parking is easy and the room is large; he feels this is a win-win location all the way around. Erickson continued that to get to the Duck Creek Center from the De Pere City Hall would only take 6 minutes longer than to get to the Northern Building. Supervisor Kaster noted that would not apply in winter when the roads are slippery. Citizen Member Stan Kaczmarek informed he likes the meetings at Duck Creek because the parking is easy. Kaster informed he would rather meet at the Northern Building. Supervisor Deslauriers added that he also would prefer to meet at the Northern Building for the ease of his constituents. Kaster would not be opposed to meeting at Duck Creek during the summer, but he would prefer to meet downtown during the winter. He also recalled there had been talk in the past about meeting at the STEM Center. Erickson suggested meetings be held at Duck Creek Center through October and then re-evaluate. Deslauriers noted he will vote nay as he would rather the meetings be held at a more central location. Kaczmarek informed Pittsfield built a new town hall and he may suggest having a meeting there in September and then having a tour the same night.

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to continue to hold meetings at the Duck Creek Center through October and then have further discussions regarding holding meetings at the Northern Building or STEM Center. Vote taken. Ayes: Kaczmarek, Erickson, Dantine Nays: Kaster, Deslauriers. MOTION CARRIED 3 to 2

Supervisor Tran arrived at 6:10 pm.

Comments from the Public

Dantine informed Shirley Vanden Plas recently passed away and he wished to extend the sympathies of this subcommittee to her family. Vanden Plas's husband, Merlin, was a member of the Land Con Subcommittee for a number of years.

Land Conservation Department

1. Open Positions Report.

County Conservationist Mike Mushinski informed the agronomist position remains unfilled as they continue to look for funding for the position.

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Stan Kaczmarek to receive and place on file. Vote Taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Budget Status Financial Report for May 2019 – Unaudited.

Mushinski informed the budget is tracking within \$2,000 of expenses and revenue and there are no concerns at this time.

Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Stan Kaczmarek to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Director's Report.

a. Demonstration Farms Network Outreach.

Mushinski talked briefly about the Animal Waste Ordinance revisions and said he thought it would be ready for this meeting, however, Corporation Counsel has been very busy and has not had a chance to complete the ordinance. Mushinski intends to have the ordinance at the next meeting and we can then decide if it will be handled in one meeting or two.

At this time, Whitney Prestby provided an outreach update on the Fox Demo Farms. A copy of the Power Point is attached.

Following the presentation, Erickson commented on how brown Duck Creek currently is and asked if there are any projects going on with that watershed. Mushinski responded that there has been some work, but most of the impact is in Outagamie County because a good share of Duck Creek is in Outagamie County. There has been some progress made, but there is still a lot to do. Prestby added that one of the reasons they are doing the social impact study is because it is going to take a while for the water quality to respond.

Kaczmarek said this year he planted about 450 acres of corn and beans and of that, 300+ was no till. You cannot go out with a planter and plant without all the attachments to make it work. It takes time and commitment and he has been playing around with this for a few years. There are things to learn throughout the process. Kaczmarek said it is going to take time to get all the producers organized. Sometimes farmers are slow to adapt, but those that do, seem to really like it. He is happy with the results he has seen so far and given this year's weather, the no till crops are looking better than the rest.

Kaster asked if there is any way to measure dead spots in the Bay which are caused by phosphorous run-off. Mushinski said NEW Water monitors this and they have data going back many years regarding water quality and that is where the County gets their information. Mushinski said the original demonstration farm network started here and there will be other networks starting in other areas and they are mimicking what is happening here because of the success.

With regard to the dead spots on the Bay, Erickson said when you look at a map of the lower Bay and see the massive chunk, all it is indicating is where dead spots could occur. Dead spots can be as short as

one hour and they are caused by an oxygen situation. Sometimes they are there for a few days, but they do come and go and they only go 10 feet down.

Motion made by Stan Kaczmarek, seconded by Supervisor Erickson to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

4. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.


Deslauriers said since PD & T is the most important meeting for his constituents, he will be asking for consideration of Supervisor Tran regarding meeting location at that meeting or make his own motion and he asked if this Subcommittee should take another vote on Item IV at this time since Tran is now in attendance. It was indicated that this item is also on the PD & T agenda so there will be a vote there.

5. Adjourn.

Motion made by Supervisor Deslauriers, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to adjourn at 6:34 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

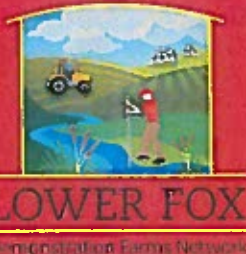
Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Administrative Specialist



Fox Demo Farms: Outreach Update

Whitney Prestby
Natural Resource Educator
University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension



LOWER FOX
Demonstration Farms Network

Sunset on the Farm: August 8, 2019



YOU'RE INVITED!
SUNSET ON THE FARM - BRICKSTEAD DAIRY

 **THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019 • 3:00 - 8:00 PM**
1734 Wayside Rd. Greenleaf, WI 54126 

Join us for our third year of Sunset on the Farm! We're excited to welcome you and your family for a fun evening on the farm. Come learn about the conservation practices we are using to help protect our shared water resources! The evening will include a light dinner, wagon tours of the fields, petting zoo, kids science stations, rainfall simulator, & more!

Questions? Contact Kelly Vande Hei:
(920) 532-0386 or kvandehei@bricksteaddairy.com

Space is limited and registration is required. Register online TODAY!
WWW.FUNDYOURFARMIS.ORG



Outreach Plan: Brown County Landowner Survey

▪ Brown County Landowner Survey

- 330 surveys sent
- 215 returned (65% return rate)
- 75% land rented, 25% land farmed

▪ Evaluation Goals:

- *To what extent are landowners knowledgeable about soil health and water quality?*
- *What factors influence landowners' decision to rent to producers? To what extent are landowners willing to rent land to producers who use conservation practices?*
- *What conservation-related messaging strategies or frames resonate most with landowners?*

10. In your opinion, which of the two pictures below represents a "well-managed" field? (Please circle one picture) (EQ1)

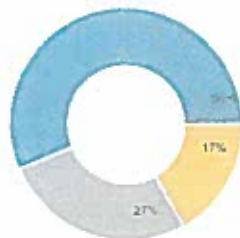
a.



b.



Figure 10. Landowners' actual knowledge of conservation



■ High actual knowledge of conservation

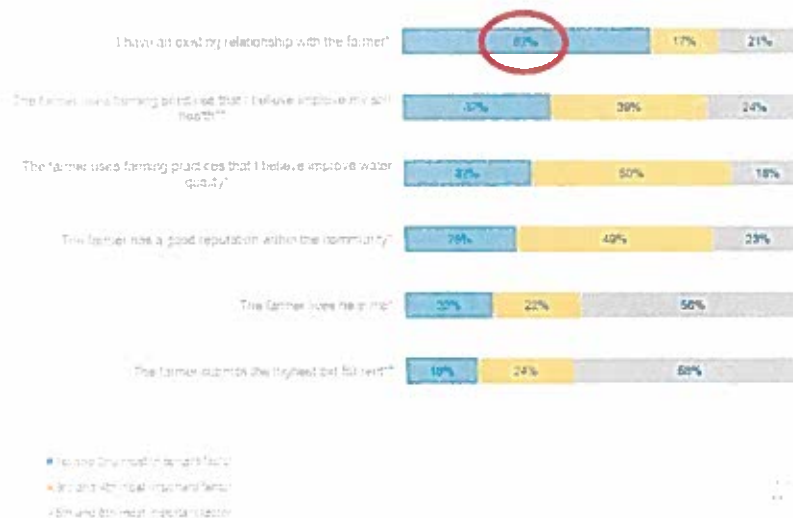
■ Intermediate actual knowledge of conservation

■ Low actual knowledge of conservation

EQ1

4. Below is a list of potential factors that may influence your decision to rent your cropland. Please rank the following factors from most to least important. (EQ2)

Figure 4. Potential factors that may influence landowners' decision to rent to another farmer



9. Please identify your level of agreement with the following statements. (EQ2)

Strongly disagree Slightly disagree Slightly agree Strongly agree

A. I would be willing to rent my land to farmers who use conservation practices, if I receive the same rent I do now

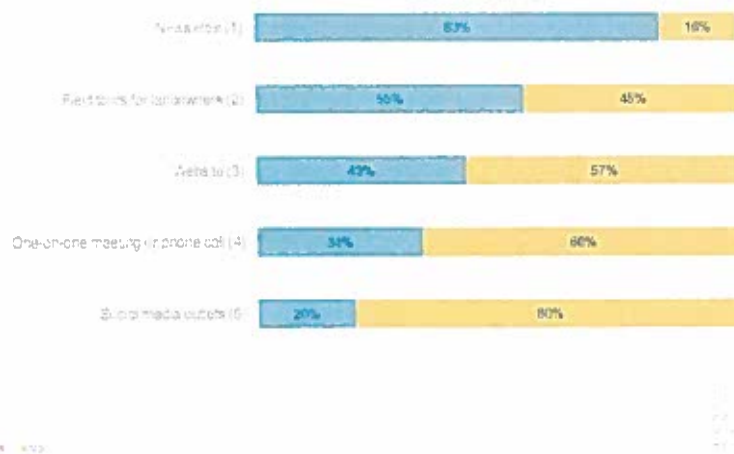
B. I would be willing to rent my land to farmers who use conservation practices, even if I receive less rent than I do now

Figure 7 | Landowners willingness to rent to farmers who use conservation practices, depending on rent received (Q2)



20. Below are listed potential methods for landowners to learn more about conservation agriculture. Please indicate whether you would use this method of learning. (EQ3)

Figure 11 | Landowners willingness to learn more about conservation agriculture (Q3)



Action items for 2019:

- Field days for producers and their landowners
- Invite landowners to 2019 Sunset on the Farm
- 19% of landowners are female: 2019 Women Caring for the Land
- Workshop for landowners interested in adding conservation requirements in their rental agreements

So what's the impact?



Physical Indicators

Water Quality



Edge-of-field monitoring

Soil Health



Soil health monitoring

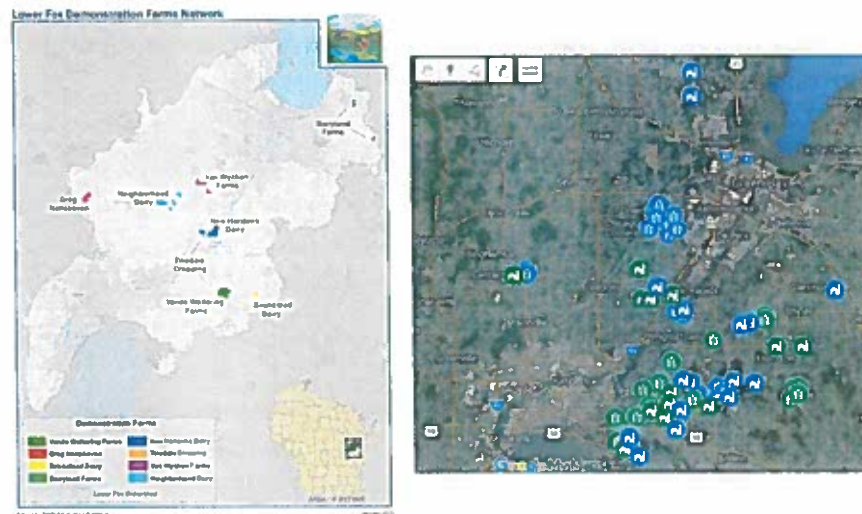
Social Impact Study

Research Question: *What social impact has the Fox Demo Farms had on the Lower Fox River Watershed?*

Evaluation Questions:

- **EQ1.** To what extent has Fox Demo Farms played a role in shifting farmers from traditional to conservation agriculture beyond the farmers who are participating in the project?
- **EQ2.** What are the challenges that farmers in the Lower Fox face in adopting, maintaining, and expanding conservation practices?
- **EQ3.** What do Fox Demo Farm's farmers' social networks look like?
- **EQ4.** To what extent has the Fox Demo Farm's social norming tool been effective?

Social Impact Study: Who are we interviewing?



Social Impact Study: What are we learning?

EQ1: To what extent has Fox Demo Farms played a role in shifting farmers from traditional to conservation agriculture beyond the farmers who are participating in the project?

- Changes in conservation agriculture throughout watershed?
 - "I've seen a lot **more cover crops** being put into the ground. I think that **every farm is in one way or another always worried about water quality**, where it maybe wasn't quite a topic before. People are understanding and seeing when we have **heavy rains, the brown water coming off the fields...Understanding that's not normal**"
 - "Paradigm shift...We have more people talking about low disturbance manure application. We have **contractors** and **custom operators** that are **understanding the way of farming is changing.**"
 - "You drive across Brown County and you see what farms are doing and you say 'they were at my farm' [for a tour]"

Social Impact Study: What are we learning?

EQ2: What are the challenges that farmers in the Lower Fox face in adopting, maintaining, and expanding conservation practices?

- What are the biggest challenges? Have you overcome these challenges?
 - "Cover crop seed...what am I going to plant? How much? How am I going to fit it into my rotation? How do I want it to look in the spring? What am I going to need for equipment?"
 - "The pool of **people we have to consult** with keeps **growing and growing**."
 - "Having a planter setup the way we wanted" Trying to manage different people and getting them on board"
 - **Building partnerships** with custom operators to help move towards conservation equipment. Equipment is now being used on other farms
 - Outagamie County bringing new equipment into the area (InterSeeder, manure applicators)

Social Impact Study: What are we learning?

EQ3: What do Fox Demo Farm's farmers' social networks look like?

- Who do you look to?
 - "**I use the Demo Farms as a resource** because its plugged me into a lot more of those people [farmers who are trying new things]...**I socially don't know other farmers.**"
 - "**Your local farmer telling you 'this worked for me'...that's what sparks change.** Farmers getting advice from other farmers."
 - "Members of the Demo Farms I talk to quite a bit."
- Who looks to you?
 - "I've had a number of farmers call me up and ask about no-till and ask about what I'm doing for cover crops because they know I'm doing it."
 - "We've had farmers asking about our demo field and what we've been seeing."

Social Impact Study: What are we learning?

EQ4: To what extent has the Fox Demo Farm's social norming tool been effective?

- Is it important publicly show **your** commitment to water quality?
 - "I'm very proud to be able to put those signs up and it's just getting people to recognize what they are ..."
 - "For me it's more public relations. **Puts the farm in a positive light.**"
- Received comments about field signs?
 - "I get **a lot of people** [who have toured the farm] who are out there **looking for the signs.**"

Next steps...

- Complete interviews
 - Fox Demo Farms
 - Non-participants
 - **Agronomists**
 - **Local stakeholders**
- Conduct content analysis
- Complete social network analysis

Name	In the last two years, did you GIVE information or technical advice to this person related to conservation practices?	In the last two years, did you RECEIVE information or technical advice from this person related to conservation practices?
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